

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

COUNTRY **USSR/RUMANIA**

SUBJECT **Comments on Prisoner of War Camps.**

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this part of Europe is the poorest and the most backward

The food [redacted] given, which was more and of a better quality than that the civilians received, was meager and many of the prisoners of war as well as civilians received swollen limbs from malnutrition. This camp was infested with ticks, flies, lice and fleas. Water was available only for cooking purposes. [redacted] no water for drinking nor for bathing. As many as 50 or 60 prisoners would die in one day and for burial they were rolled in open trenches and covered with dirt. When only about 200 of the three thousand original prisoners were left, they were moved from this camp to a hospital at another prisoner of war camp located at Kishinev. Of these two hundred who survived most of them were from the same barracks in the Bendary camp.

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the admission to the hospital at the Kishinev camp where [] washed and given clean clothing. This hospital was comparatively clean and there were less ticks, flies, lice and fleas. There was some medical personnel who had little medicines or other equipment. The doctors were considerate and did what they could under the existing conditions. []

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[redacted] This hospital was near the railway station in Kishinev and was a part of the prisoner of war camp in that city. This prisoner of war camp contained several buildings, two-story and one-story structures, which apparently had been used for training the military.

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- 2 -

The hospital was always filled beyond its capacity. [redacted]
there were an excess of one thousand patients in this building.

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[redacted]
There was no garbage to be collected, practically everything was eaten up. What little garbage there was was fed to some pigs that the officers had. Health conditions were far better at Kishinev than at Bender.

[redacted] estimate about 50 per cent of all
civilians and prisoners were infected with the disease at that time.
There was no attempt to control mosquitoes. The malaria here was much less severe than that of the tropics and was of a shorter duration.

[redacted] there was absolutely no organization for the prevention and treatment of diseases except that which existed in the prison hospital and that was not for civilians. At times people who died were left on the streets for two or three days at a time before burial took place. Health conditions were much more severe among the civilian population than within the prisoner of war camps.

[redacted] the buildings were mostly of wood construction one story high and crowded together. In Kishinev [redacted] burned a large portion of the city before Hitler's armies took over. Health and housing conditions gradually grew better.

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[redacted]
A dark heavy bread was their main food; this was supplemented with cabbage soup and dishes made from corn, sunflower seed oil, millet and vegetables. Meat, fish and milk were unheard of.

[redacted] organizing clubs against fascism, etc. at which leaders would always be teaching the Communist line.

[redacted] there were over 10 thousand Hungarians in Prisoner of War camps in this particular area. The camps of the prisoner of war camps [redacted] were Leather Manufacturing Camp, Camp Number 8 and Belenbury Camp. There were no Soviet labor camps in this area.

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- 3 -

[REDACTED]

Preseburg (Bratislava) in Czechoslovakia was the central gathering place for all prisoner of war before being sent on to Prisoner of War camps.

[REDACTED]

Kishinev was predominately Jewish whereas Bender was more mixed, with people of varied backgrounds. The population seemed fixed and not transient.

[REDACTED]

Prisoners of war used Russian and most business was transacted in Russian - but in homes and among themselves the people seemed to use their own language of which there were several.

[REDACTED]

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